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January 9, 2008

Mr. Steve Hemminger, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

Dear Mr. Hemminger:

I am writing in strong support for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as the applicant, and Delta Protection Commission (DPC) as the sub-recipient, for an FY 2008-2009 Partnership Planning Grant application to the California Department of Transportation, for the Great California Delta Trail Collaborative Planning Process.

As the author of SB 1556 (2006), which authorized the Great California Delta Trail's planning process, I will be an enthusiastic participant in the collaborative planning process for the Delta Trail which is described in the application. I support the broadly inclusive approach to the planning process and will be pleased to be a part of an important effort that spans the five delta counties (Contra Costa, Solano, Yolo, Sacramento and San Joaquin), eleven cities, legacy towns in the Delta, and three Caltrans Districts (Districts 3, 4 and 10).

The Delta Trail vision was inspired by the San Francisco Bay Trail, which will encircle over 450 miles of Bay waterfront and link over 47 cities and communities. The Delta Trail will link with the San Francisco Bay Trail terminus in Martinez and end at the Sacramento River Trail to ultimately create a bicycle route from San Jose to Sacramento and Stockton around the entire San Francisco Bay and Delta waterways.

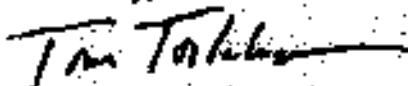
The Delta Trail will provide recreational access to the Delta ecosystem, 22 current recreational facilities, and miles of historic and small towns. The Delta Trail will connect major trail systems in the cities, towns and counties along the Delta waterfront, and fill in the gaps between in order to create one contiguous network around the region.

The State Legislature and the Governor deemed The Great California Delta Trail of statewide recreational and transportation significance when it passed my legislation and the Governor signed it into law mandating the Delta Protection Commission to complete a feasibility study and

to develop a plan for the establishment of a trail network through the five delta counties. What impresses me most about the Partnership Planning Grant application is the commitment to a very broad, collaborative planning process which will ensure that hundreds of organizations and the public will be meaningfully involved, providing the best possible outcome for development of the trail in a cost-effective and timely manner.

I give my full support to this grant application and look forward to becoming involved in the Great California Delta Trail planning process which will be enabled through this grant.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

CC: Ms. Linda Fiack
Executive Director
Delta Protection Commission
P.O. Box 530
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